

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201854

11

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11

OPR-02 PCH-04 /190 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA:ATHERTON

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R 112124Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 201854

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 201854

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
OCTOBER 11, 1973:

QUOTE: AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY: THERE ARE TWO THINGS I NEED
TO MENTION. ONE, SO FAR AS THE SECRETARY'S EUROPEAN TRIP
IS CONCERNED, IT NOW VERY STRONGLY APPEARS THAT IT WILL BE
POSTPONED. THAT CLEARLY IS RELATED TO THE SITUATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND THE SECRETARY'S INVOLVEMENT IN IT ON BEHALF
OF THE UNITED STATES.

ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, I HAVE TO BEGIN WITH THE NO
NEWS PART OF IT, MUCH AS I REGRET.

ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT, CONSULTATION IS CONTINUING, BOTH
IN CAPITALS,-AS I SAID YESTERDAY, AND AMONG THE GOVERN-
MENS REPRESENTED ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN NEW YORK.

AMBASSADOR SCALI WAS HERE THIS MORNING AND PARTICIPATED IN
A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS OF US IN THE
DEPARTMENT.

THERE MAY BE A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL LATER TODAY.

I WILL DO MY BEST TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Q. EVERY DAY YOU ARE ASKED TO BE SOMEWHAT OF A MILITARY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 201854

EXPERT -- AND I DON'T KNOW WHY WE SHOULD STOP NOW -- AND
GIVE US THE ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER ANY DECISIVE TURN HAS
OCCURRED IN THE FIELD. AND I WONDER IF YOU WOULD TRY AGAIN
TODAY.

HAVING COMPLETE BATTLEFIELD INFORMATION, OUR MORNING
SITUATION REPORTS WOULD INDICATE THAT ON THE EGYPTIAN
FRONT, A LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, IT APPEARS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE SOME ADVANCES. AND IN GENERAL, THAT LOOKS O US LIKE THE WAY THE SITUATION STANDS.

Q. LOOKING AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL -- YOU MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING TODAY. WOULD YOU LOOK FOR ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE IN THE WAY OF AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL?

A. FOR BACKGROUND, I WOULD NOT LOOK FOR A SPECIFIC AMERICAN PROPOSAL, IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETS LATER TODAY.

Q. BOB, DID THE SECRETARY RAISE WITH M. JOBERT THE ISSUE OF FRENCH ARMS SALES AND DELIVERIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. NO.

Q. A U.S. OFFICIAL IS BACK AT WORK AT THE PENTAGON THIS MORNING, AND HE SAID THAT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIET RESUPPLY OPERATION IS CONTINUING, ESPECIALLY TO SYRIA. DOES THIS CONVINCE YOU ANY FURTHER THAT IT IS INDEED HAPPENING, AND DOES IT MAKE ANY CHANGE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION?

A. I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT THAN I HAD HERE YESTERDAY; CERTAINLY NOTHING MORE BY WAY OF COMMENT.

FOR BACKGROUND, IT IS, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, AS IT WAS DESCRIBED TO YOU AT THE PENTAGON.

Q. TO FOLLOW UP THE EARLIER QUESTION ON FRENCH ARMS SALES, DID THE SECRETARY DISCUSS WITH THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 201854

ANYTHING ABOUT CONCERTING WESTERN ACTION ON THE OIL AND ENERGY QUESTION, BECAUSE THE LATEST REPORT IS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE NOW SENT TANKS OR ARE SENDING TANKS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND LIBYA, WHICH ARE LARGE SOURCES OF OIL SUPPLY FOR THEM.

A. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT OF OIL AND AGREEMENT -- AND I DON'T USE THE WORD IN ITS MOST FORMAL SENSE -- THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OUGHT TO REMAIN IN CONTACT ON THIS QUESTION. NOTHING DECISIVE WAS UNDERTAKEN.

THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A BOYCOTT WAS BEING STUDIED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS A CONTINGENCY ,AS A POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY. IS IT STILL AT THAT LEVEL OR IS IT TAKEN ANY MORE SERIOUSLY HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT?

A. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING TO INDICATE FROM ANY QUARTER THAT A BOYCOTT IS CONTEMPLATED. CERTAINLY THE WHOLE QUESTION OF OIL SUPPLY IS ONE THAT IS REVIEWED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AS THIS SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PERSISTS.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDER THE RUSSIAN BEHAVIOR SO FAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO BE RESPONSIBLE?

A. I HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT ON THE RUSSIAN BEHAVIOR, AS YOU PUT IT, THAN WHAT I SAID HERE YESTERDAY. I WILL LET THOSE REMARKS STAND.

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY COMPLAINED TO THE RUSSIANS ABOUT THEIR BEHAVIOR?

A. THE SECRETARY HAS MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN IN WASHINGTON. I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. HOW MUCH RESUPPLYING ARE WE DOING TO THE ISRAELIS AT THIS POINT? THERE HAS BEEN A PUBLISHED REPORT THAT A PLANE WITH ISRAELI MARKINGS WAS SEEN LOADING UP IN NORFOLK YESTERDAY WITH MILITARY SUPPLIES. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 201854

A. NOTHING, I'M AFRAID, I'M SORRY. I CANNOT DISCUSS THAT QUESTION IN ANY WAY, SHAPE OR FORM.

Q- YOU WERE ASKED YESTERDAY AS TO WHETHER THE CURRENT DISTURBANCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD AFFECT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP -- PROJECTED TRIP TO CHINA. YOU SAID THAT THEY HAD NOT LOOKED THAT FAR DOWN THE ROAD. DO THEY SEE PROBLEMS IN THIS CONNECTION?

A. ON PRESENT FORM, I WOULD SAY NO.

Q. IS ANYTHING GOING TO HAPPEN IN TERMS OF EVACUATION U.S. DEPENDENTS OR CITIZENS FROM THE WAR ZONE?

A. WE KEEP CHECK ON THIS EACH DAY, AND TO DATE THERE HASN'T BEEN IN OUR JUDGMENT ANY NEED TO EVACUATE AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM ANY OF THE CLOSE-BY COUNTRIES, AND OBVIOUSLY WE HOPE THAT DOES NOT PROVE TO BE NECESSARY.

STATEMENT OF YESTERDAY WHETHER THE AIRLIFT IS MASSIVE OR SOME SENSE OF ITS SIZE?

A. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DO THAT FOR A NUMBER OF
REASONS, ONE OF WHICH IS THAT WE HAVE NO ON-THE-GROUND
REPRESENTATION IN ONE OF THE COUNTRIES, SO THAT WE ARE AT
A REMOVE IN A WAY THAT WE CANNOT BE COMPLETELY CONFIDENT
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